

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 ACDA-19

SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 DRC-01 /188 W

----- 030777

R 251434Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJ: HIGH ISRAELI EXPECTATIONS ON LEVEL OF US AID COMMITMENT

LONDON FOR GLEYSTEN

REF: TEL AVIV 3273

1. ISRAELI PRESS JUNE 25 CONTINUES (PRESUMABLY ON BASIS OF ONGOING GOI BACKGROUNDING) TO FEED PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, WITH CURRENT FOCUS OF PRESS REPORTS BEING ON VISIT OF DEFENSE MINISTER PERES TO WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, PERES IS SEEKING TO FIRM UP PROMISES MADE BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT USG IS READY TO ENTER INTO VIRTUALLY OPEN-ENDED LONG-TERM MILITARY SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

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2. RE SPECIFICS OF GOI MILITARY AID REQUESTS, PRESS STATES THAT

PERES IS SEEKING A COMMITMENT FROM USG OF TWO BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY THROUGH 1980 (SOME SOURCES CITE 1.5 BILLION MILITARY AID AND .5 BILLION ECONOMIC AID). PRESS ALSO ADDS THAT PERES HOPES TO NAIL DOWN NOT ONLY DETAILS ON QUANTITY, QUALITY AND FINANCING, BUT ALSO COMMITMENTS TO SUPPLY SPECIFIC HARDWARE TO IDF, SUCH AS NEW GENERATION OF AMERICAN TANKS AND AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING F-14 FIGHTER. PRESS ALSO NOTES REMARK MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AT JUNE 24 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT US IS PREPARED

TO DISCUSS A LONGER TERM AID ARRANGEMENT WITH ISRAEL BUT THAT VISIT OF DEFMIN PERES IS DESIGNED TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OS SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AND IS NOT RELATED TO ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL OF AID.

3. COMMENT. WE ARE PUZZLED BY EVIDENT GOI DECISION TO CONTINUE TO AROUSE UNREALISTICALLY HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF U.S. AID ON PART OF ISRAELI PUBLIC. BASED ON ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ME, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT RABIN AND OTHER SENIOR GOI LEADERS REALLY BELIEVE WHAT IS BEING FED TO THE PRESS HERE. (ONE SENIOR MINDEF OFFICIAL COMMENTED TODAY TO ECON COUNSELOR THAT IT WAS NOT "HIS" MINISTRY THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE, WHILE NOT DENYING GOI WAS RESPONSIBLE.) ONE EXPLANATION FOR THIS BEHAVIOR COULD BE THAT NEW AND RELATIVELY INSECURE RABIN GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO BOLSTER ITS PUBLIC IMAGE BY SEEKING TO CREATE IMPRESSION AT HOME OF AN UPRECEDENTED US COMMITMENT TO AID ISRAEL. IF THIS INDEED IS RATIONALE THAT RABIN GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING, IT HAS TO BACKFIRE WHEN EXPECTATIONS DO NOT MATCH UP TO REALITY.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, IS, (PERES, SHIMON)  
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